(b) the recent flood in Sutlej was caused by the breach of the artificial lake formed in the Pareechhu river, a tributary of the Spiti-Satluj, located in Chinese territory.

(c) to (e) In order to develop proper understanding of glaciers, the Government has commissioned a few studies, including a comprehensive programme on the inventory of glaciers, fluctuations in their sizes and mass balance.

Environmental clearance to Maharashtra Government proposal

1325. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minsiter of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal to Poshir Dam for environmental clearance in September, 1996;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the compliances of various remarks by the Central Government were also submitted at various stages; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in clearance to the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Poshir dam project was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for environmental clearance in July 1996.

(b) No, Sir. The proposal could not be granted environmental clearance due to non submission of forest clearance and survey report of flora and fauna in the project impact area.

(c) No fresh proposal complying with the statutory provisions under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 and its subsequent amendments has been received from the project authorities.

Cleaning of Yamuna river

†1326. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount spent by the Central Government during the last three years to clean Yamuna river;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government of Delhi has submitted any report to the Central Government regarding implementation of Cleaning of Yamuna Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether this report has been found to be fit as per the criteria of Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The amount spent by the Central Government during the last three years under Yamuna Action Plan to clean Yamuna river in the three States of Haryana, UP and Delhi is as follows:

2002-03	-	Rs. 102.13 crore
2003-04	-	Rs. 8.10 crore
2004-05	-	Rs. 7.15 crore

(b) to (d) As per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a committee was constituted in August, 2004 under the chairmanship of the Union Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, comprising representatives of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, The Delhi Jal Board (DJB)/Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), Delhi Cantonment Board, Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation (DSIDC) and Government of Uttar Pradesh for preparation of an Integrated Action Plan for cleaning of Yamuna river in Delhi. The Action Plan drawn up included augmentation in the capacity of sewage treatment plants, rehabilitation of trunk sewers, management of waste water in the Najafgarh drain, Shahdara drain and other drains, laying of sewer lines in the unsewered areas of Delhi, resettlement/clearance of slum clusters on the Yamuna river bank/bed, treatment of industrial effluents, utilization of treated effluent and removal of coliform at sewage treatment plants. The Action Plan was submitted by the Ministry of Urban Development in November, 2004. In this connection, in response to an order dated 12.04.2005 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, an affidavit is to be filed by the Ministry of Urban Development indicating the present status with regards to the

commitments by various agencies in the affidavits filed earlier in the year 2000 and 2001. The affidavit is to be filed on the basis of inputs from various agencies e.g. MCD, DDA, NDMC, DSIDC & DJB/Govt. of NCT Delhi.

Use of forest land for developmental projects

1327. SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to allow the use of forest land for the purpose of developmental projects; and

(b) if so, the details of total area of land being considered for the use of the same, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (b) Forests are repository of natural resources, minerals, and water and a large population of the country is living around forested regions. It is the constitutional requirement of the Government to develop all the regions and their people and harness the natural resources available in the country sustainably to support the optimum economic growth. With this view, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which is an Act that maintains a rational balance between conservation of environment and developmental efforts, was enacted by the Central Government. The Act is regulatory in nature, and not prohibitory. The Act deals with the forestry clearance for diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes.

Since its enactment in 1980, 12,241 development projects involving 10.03 lakh hectare of forest land, have been granted forestry clearance under this Act. These include the projects for power generation (hydro-power, thermal, gas, and wind), irrigation, construction of roads, railway lines, transmission lines, drinking water supply projects, village electricity, schools, hospitals etc. To mitigate the ill effects arising out of such diversion, compensatory afforestation and other necessary measures are undertaken at the project cost.

Further, there is no advance apportioning of forest land for a State/ Union Territory, for being diverted for development projects. The Central